

# Bridge Shelter Success: Deanne's Story Update

We recently told the story of Deanne, a Bridge Shelter client, who had agreed to enter into the shelter after living in her car for eight years.

Unfortunately, since then, Deanne had more medical issues that needed to be dealt with and she was hospitalized.

Her panic and breathing issues continued to be problematic for her at the shelter; however, staff kept in contact with the local hospital to ensure that they were aware of her discharge status and on top of her new medication requirements.

This involved receiving the medication list from the hospital and forwarding this to Deanne's primary care physician so that new prescriptions could be filled. Additionally, her medication had to be stored and dispensed correctly, which involved a great deal of time for shelter staff because Deanne has difficulty understanding and following instructions.

While this was going on, shelter case managers were continuing to seek housing options, as well as obtain financial information necessary for her to receive Medi-Cal.

At the urging of shelter staff, a Full Service Partnership (FSP) housing provider finally agreed to interview Deanne. Because she is a senior with a behavioral health diagnosis, the provider attempted to qualify her for housing.

After undergoing two required medical clearances, Deanne was accepted into an assisted living facility in Orange County!

Deanne is thriving there and now has complete control over her bank accounts. The assisted living placement will allow her to be protected both financially and medically since they have

24-hour staff who will monitor her on a daily basis.

Helping clients like Deanne through difficult times is just one of the many services individuals have come to expect from our caring and dedicated shelter staff.

The Costa Mesa Bridge Shelter is run by a combination of City outreach staff and staff from Mercy House, an experienced, well-respected shelter operator. If you have questions for Mercy House about the Costa Mesa Bridge Shelter please call 714-836-7188 ext. 222 or e-mail [CostaMesaBridge@mercyhouse.net](mailto:CostaMesaBridge@mercyhouse.net).

To learn more about making a donation, volunteer opportunities and how you can help, please visit [www.costamesaca.gov/homelessness](http://www.costamesaca.gov/homelessness).

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## **Senior Engineer Arash Rahimian presented with City Manager Leadership Award**

Senior Engineer Arash Rahimian was presented with the City Manager Leadership Award at the monthly Meet and Greet event on Thursday June 26 at City Hall.

“Arash has shown excellent leadership, dedication and hard work to see that projects are completed on time, within budget and to the highest standards,” Acting City Manager Tammy Letourneau said. “For the Costa Mesa Library he went above and beyond his normal duties to coordinate and resolve issues with utility providers, stake holders, regulatory agencies and departments, contractors and consultants.”

Rahimian joined the Costa Mesa's Public Services team in April 2015 as an Associate Engineer. In October 2016 he was assigned as Acting Senior Engineer and in December 2017 he was promoted to his current position.

Rahimian's responsibilities include planning, design and construction of Capital Improvement Program projects and the supervision of the Construction Management Section in the Engineering Division. Throughout his tenure with the City he has received numerous compliments from residents in regards to his professionalism and dedication.

He has completed a number of projects that include reconstruction of alleys citywide, street rehabilitation projects, Arlington Drive Bioswale and Pedestrian Improvements, Fire Station No. 1 Reconstruction, and most recently, the City's most iconic building – the Costa Mesa Library.

In 2017, Rahimian worked with the Coastline Regional Occupational Program to provide high school students the opportunity to work closely with Engineering Staff during a summer internship.

Acting City Manager Letourneau also welcomed several newly hired employees and recognized another for her recent promotion.

Julie Dance, originally hired as an intern in 1997, has been promoted to Civilian Investigator in the Police Department.

Nataly Jacobo is a new Building Technician I working in the Building Division of the Development Services Department, Phoebe Jin is a new Programmer Analyst II in I.T and Staphani Ogas is a new Community Outreach Worker working for our Network for Homeless Solutions.

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# **Fairview Development Center to hold Fireworks event on Thursday June 27 at 9 p.m.**

Fairview Developmental Center will be holding its annual Independence Day Fireworks event for clients, employees and general public on Thursday June 27.

The event starts at 4 p.m. and lasts until 10 p.m.

The fireworks show is expected to begin at 9 p.m. and last until 9:20 p.m.

Participants at this event will be in the closed roadway and adjacent parking areas, at various venues, in the area of the Goodell School.

In addition to fireworks, there will be food vendors and musical groups.

Fairview Developmental Center is located at 2501 Harbor Blvd. For additional information or questions please contact Dispatch at (714) 957-5000.

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## **Partial demolition of Harbor**

# **Boulevard freeway bridge and pile driving at Fairview bridge to begin**

Caltrans work crews will be busy in the coming weeks as they perform pile driving work on the Fairview Bridge and demolition of a portion of the I-405 Freeway bridge over Harbor Boulevard as part of the I-405 Improvement Project.

Construction crews advise this work may be loud at times.

Both the demolition and pile driving work will begin on Wednesday June 26, continuing intermittently through Thursday July 11.

The demolition work will occur on the southbound I-405 bridge over Harbor Boulevard between the northbound and southbound freeway ramps. This work will also require lane closures on the southbound I-405, but not full freeway closures.

Additional Closures include the southbound I-405 loop on-ramp from Harbor Boulevard and the northbound I-405 loop on-ramp from Harbor Boulevard.

Detours will be in place, and signs will be posted to guide motorists around the closures. Motorists should expect delays and use alternate routes if possible.

The demolition work over Harbor Boulevard will start as early as Wednesday, June 26 and continue to Monday, July 1 from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m., and resume on Monday, July 8 to Thursday, July 11 from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m.

The following detours will be created.

## **For northbound Harbor Boulevard commuters:**

- Detour No. 1: Eastbound Baker Street to NB Fairview Road to

westbound South Coast Drive to northbound Harbor Boulevard

- Detour No. 2: Eastbound Baker Street to NB Fairview Road to westbound Sunflower Avenue to northbound Harbor Boulevard

### Northbound I-405 loop on-ramp from Harbor Boulevard Detour:

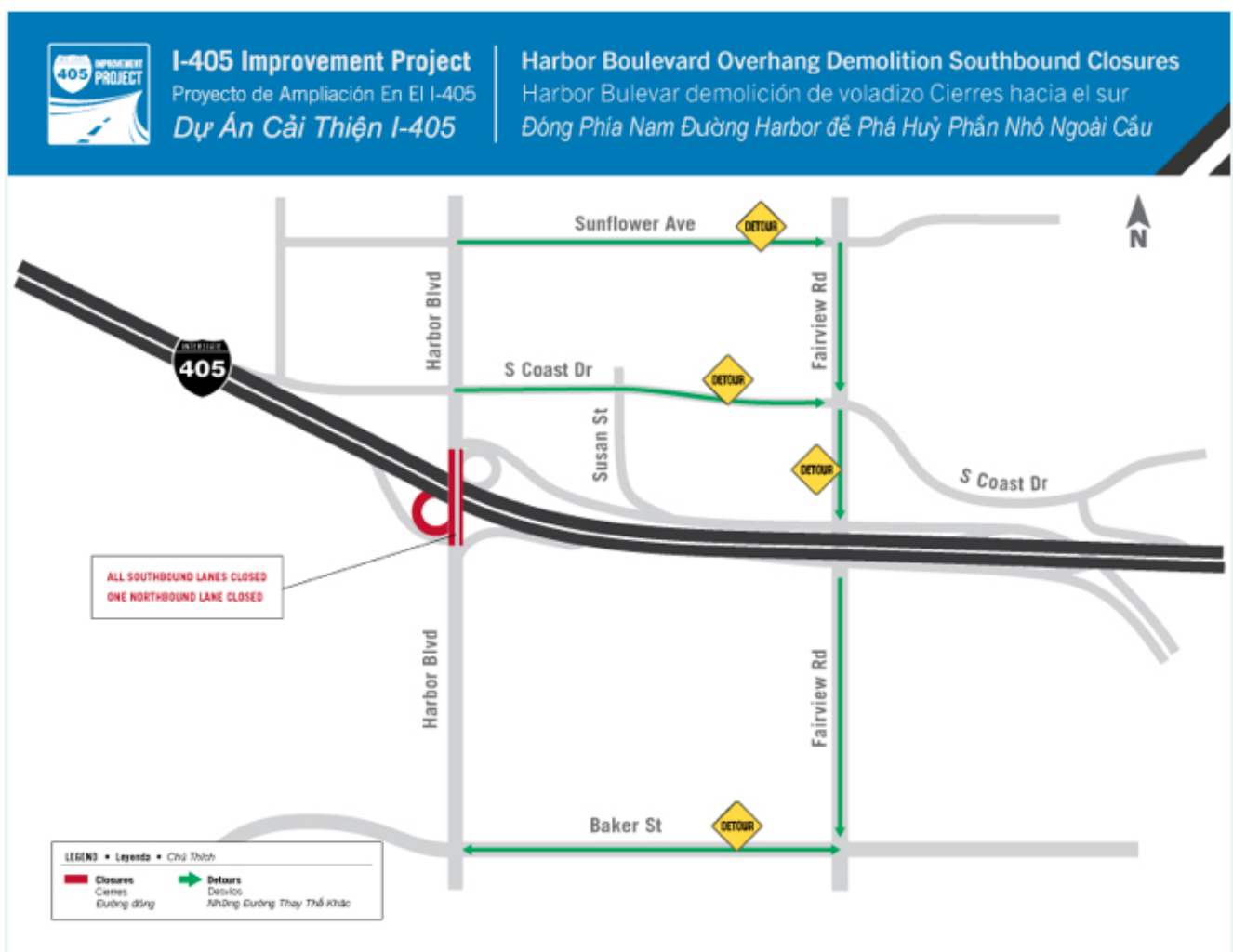
- Baker Street to Fairview Road to South Coast Drive to Harbor Boulevard straight on-ramp

### For southbound Harbor Boulevard commuters:

- Detour No. 1: Eastbound Sunflower Street to southbound Fairview Road to westbound Baker Street to southbound Harbor Boulevard
- Detour No. 2: Eastbound South Coast Drive to southbound Fairview Road to westbound Baker Street to southbound Harbor Boulevard

### Southbound I-405 loop on-ramp from Harbor Boulevard Detour:

- South Coast Drive to Fairview Road to Southbound I-405





**I-405 Improvement Project**  
Proyecto de Ampliación En El I-405  
Dự Án Cải Thiện I-405

**Harbor Boulevard Overhang Demolition Northbound Closures**  
Harbor Bulevar demolición de voladizo Cierres hacia el norte  
Đông Phía Bắc Đường Harbor để Phá Hủy Phần Nhô Ngoài Cầu



In addition to this work, crews will also be performing pile installation at the Fairview Bridge Over Crossing during the day and with vibrating method during the night at I-405 Center Median. The work will take place from June 26 through June 28, July 8 through July 10 and July 15 through July 17.

Pile driving will also take place during the day and by vibrating method during the night adjacent to southbound Fairview On Ramp from July 10 through July 17.

# Bridge Shelter Success: Deanne's Story

Deanne is a Costa Mesa senior woman who spent nearly eight years living in her car with relatives.

Recently, she became severely ill and was hospitalized. The staff at the hospital reached out to Costa Mesa's community outreach team and through collaborative efforts, Deanne was able to successfully move into the Bridge Shelter.

Initially, Deanne was extremely hesitant and reluctant to stay at the shelter because she was alone and without her relatives, since they did not want to move with her to the shelter. She even experienced panic attacks due to this.

Shelter staff and Mercy House site coordinators spent a great deal of time working with Deanne to make her comfortable and to gain her trust. They reassured her that she was safe at the Shelter and that they worked tirelessly to find housing that would accommodate senior homeless residents.

As this was happening, Deanne unfortunately lost control of her bank account, so the shelter staff helped her get a new ID and a new bank account. She now has enough money to pay for health insurance and she also has the ability to save money as well, which will go towards her housing.

Deanne continues her stay at the shelter, in a safe and supportive surrounding, as shelter staff works to find her a stable place to live.

Congratulations Deanne on your recent commitment and stabilization and for working towards housing!

For more information and/or to donate to the Bridge Shelter, visit our website [here](#) or contact the shelter operators by



calling 714-836-7188 ext. 222, or [click here](#).

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# **County board of supervisors to take up JWA General Aviation plan on Tuesday June 25**

The Orange County Board of Supervisors is scheduled to again consider the John Wayne Airport General Aviation Improvement Program (GAIP) on Tuesday, June 25. This item was continued from the Board's May 7 meeting to allow time for a compromise solution proposed by Supervisor Andrew Do to be evaluated by County staff.

On June 19, County staff moved forward with the same recommendation that was presented at the May 7 Board meeting, which asks the Board to approve Alternative 1. The cities of Costa Mesa and Newport Beach opposes Alternative 1 in its original form because it will result in more jets flying over our community.

Both cities remain willing to consider the "modified Alternative 1" as proposed by Supervisor Do, or another reasonable plan that contains the project elements that protect the communities under the airport's arrival and departure corridors from additional noise and pollution impacts. Specifically, Costa Mesa and Newport Beach leaders are looking for the Board to adopt a plan based on, or that contains element similar to, the principles of Alternative 3 (the preferred alternative):

Click here for the staff report and public comments.

- No more than two (2) full-service Fixed Based Operators
- One (1) new and one (1) existing limited-service Fixed Base Operators
- No General Aviation Facility (for processing international general aviation passengers)
- Increased hangar space for small general aviation planes
- Maintain the current “GA mix”, meaning, keep the current ratio of light general aviation aircraft (single and twin engine) and general aviation jets.

### **What You Can Do**

Learn More at our web page Airport Noise and Concerns or at [newportbeachca.gov/gaip](http://newportbeachca.gov/gaip)

Sign the Petition – <http://chng.it/Z5V87DkmFv>

Email Your Comments to the Board – [www.ocgov.com/gov/bos/opinion](http://www.ocgov.com/gov/bos/opinion)

Attend the June 25 Board of Supervisors Meeting – Starts at 9:30 a.m. at 333 W. Santa Ana Blvd., Santa Ana, CA 92701.

The City of Newport Beach has received a number of questions about or related to the GAIP.

You can find a list of those questions, with the city’s answers, here.

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## **Council approves \$172 million budget for 2019-2020**

The Costa Mesa City Council at the June 18 meeting adopted a \$172 million Operating & Capital Improvement Budget for Fiscal Year 2019-2020.

The 2019-2020 budget reflected revenues that increased by 2 percent compared to a 5.6 percent increase the previous year as well as costs for the temporary and permanent Bridge Shelters, increases to salaries and benefits for existing positions and recent litigation costs surrounding sober living homes.

City leaders began working on the budget in December of 2018.

“I’m really proud of the work we have done, and the work we continue to do,” Mayor Katrina Foley said. She pointed out that the Police Department for example is now one of the highest paid in the county and is a destination department once again with specialty units and community policing.

Still, she acknowledged that the recent financial burdens placed on the city meant this year’s budget was tighter than in years past.

“We can’t have everything,” she said. “We worked hard to prioritize necessities and set up things now so that we can be ready to build and develop projects later when revenue is better. We are prioritizing recreation, we are prioritizing learning, we are prioritizing public safety and sustainability, and we are prioritizing economic development. It’s important to be a destination city and thriving business community, so we can achieve our priorities.

The council used about \$454,599 in reserves to balance the budget that includes the addition of eight full-time equivalent (FTE) positions to address operational needs in the City, which includes five new positions and three positions that were the result of reclassification or elimination of certain part-time positions to create full-time positions.

There were also a number of accounting corrections that ultimately reclassified accounts from salaries and benefits to maintenance and operations as well accurately recording revenues and expenditures individually, rather than netting

them together. This was the result of an extensive review of the accounting records to ensure the City is following proper accounting principles.

In addition to approving the budget, the City Council directed the City Manager and Finance Department to report back to City Council by November 15, 2019 on the status of the first quarter operating budget for the General Fund, provide additional recommendations on the staffing changes recommended for deferral and how to address the Police Department's operating and capital requests.

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## **Two Costa Mesa residents included in arrests of nine for Firearms and Drug Trafficking in Orange County**

Costa Mesa Police Special Investigations Detectives recently assisted in a six-month investigation that resulted in the arrest of nine defendants now charged with numerous firearms and narcotics charges for trafficking firearms, heroin and methamphetamine.

Two of those arrested were from Costa Mesa.

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) began the investigation in September 2018, which included Costa Mesa Police, Huntington Beach Police and Homeland Security Investigations.

Throughout the investigation, law enforcement obtained 20

firearms, ammunition, more than five pounds of methamphetamine, and 131 grams of heroin in controlled purchases. In addition, various firearm parts and ammunition were seized. Several of the guns bought were self-manufactured and un-serialized, numerous firearms were unregistered National Firearms Act (NFA) weapons, and at least one firearm was proven to be stolen from a residential burglary.

The two federal criminal cases are being prosecuted by the United States Attorney's Office, Santa Ana Branch Office.

"This type of law enforcement partnership amplifies our efforts to combat these crimes and allows us to cast a wider net," said Costa Mesa Police Chief Rob Sharpnack. "The apprehension of these criminals is a step toward making our communities safer. We will continue to work with our partners in our pursuit of those who threaten public safety."

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One of the indictments returned by a federal grand jury alleges Timothy A. Murphy, a.k.a. "Papa Smurf," 67, of Costa Mesa; Brad J. Nelson, 50, of Newport Beach; John W. Breneman, 46, of Irvine; and Danny Ramos, a.k.a. "Bull," 49, of Santa Ana, conspired to distribute methamphetamine and heroin.

The indictment also states Murphy, Nelson and Breneman sold pistols, shotguns, and ammunition to a prohibited person on various dates and in varying amounts. Nelson, a prohibited person, is also charged with possessing firearms illegally.

The second indictment returned by a federal grand jury alleges Joseph T. Doody, 30, of Huntington Beach; Brian P. Ros, a.k.a. "Rosco," 32, of Santa Ana; and Steve M. Bonales, a.k.a. "Ghost," "G," and "S-Man," 40, of Santa Ana, conspired to distribute methamphetamine.

The indictment alleges Caleb T. Sagiao, 36, of Harbor City, engaged in the business of selling firearms without a federal license on numerous occasions selling semi-automatic shotguns with no serial numbers, homemade AR-15 type pistols and rifles, and seven homemade AR-15 type short-barreled rifles.

Short-barreled rifles fall under the National Firearms Act and must be registered with ATF. They were not. Therefore, federal charges of possession of unregistered firearms were levied against Sagiao. According to the indictment, Ros was also engaged in the business of selling firearms without a federal license. Doody, Ros and Sagiao allegedly sold various firearms to a prohibited person throughout the investigation. Bonales, a prohibited person, is charged with a felon in possession of a firearm. According to the indictment Shelia L. Cundall, 48, of Costa Mesa, is charged with selling a firearm to a prohibited person.

"When ATF partners with its local PDs to reduce violent crime by targeting these individuals who pose the greatest threat to public safety, the enforcement strategies produce results," said ATF Special Agent in Charge of Los Angeles Field Division Carlos A. Canino. "These partnerships are true force multipliers. They enable law enforcement to identify, investigate and seek prosecution against these illicit gun possessors, and drug and firearm traffickers."

"This case is just one of the great examples of our partnerships in law enforcement," Huntington Beach Police Chief Rob Handy. "The investigation and prosecution of these dangerous individuals would not have been possible without the excellent partnerships we enjoy with both local and federal

law enforcement agencies. It is because our teams worked together, these dangerous people and weapons have been removed from our communities.”

“This investigation is a perfect example of the positive impact achieved in the community when local and federal law enforcement join forces to dismantle the dangerous criminal networks operating in our neighborhoods,” said Joseph Macias, Special Agent in Charge for Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) Los Angeles. “I commend the investigators for their coordination and tireless work. This joint investigation is a victory for law enforcement and the communities we serve.”

For more information about ATF visit and follow ATF on Twitter @LosAngelesATF.

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## **From hard knocks to helping those experiencing homelessness, Gabriel Silva found his passion**

Gabriel Silva is a Senior Site Lead for Mercy House working in the city Bridge Shelter.

He grew up in a single parent home and at the age of 5, his father passed away and left his mother to raise eight children.

“Mama did her best but I decided to take the road of hard knocks which lasted into my 30s,” Silva said. “Once I came to my senses I knew I wanted to share my experiences and help

others find their way back home if you will.”

In 2015, he began to volunteer with the Salvation Army and eventually was offered a position as an Outreach Coordinator working with the homeless community. He found his passion.

After two years with the Salvation Army, he was hired by City Net to help with the project of relocating people from the Santa Ana River Trail as well as the Santa Ana Civic Center.

Silva has assisted with relocating people from homeless encampments into emergency shelters, transitional living, permanent housing, and connecting them to mental health services, and drug rehabilitation programs.

He later learned about Mercy House and was hired by the nonprofit in November of 2018. He started as a site lead at a new shelter in Santa Ana and then moved to work on the Costa Mesa Bridge Shelter in March

“All of my past experiences have brought me to this point and have prepared me for the service here at the Costa Mesa Bridge Shelter in helping the homeless find their way home,” he said. “I am very grateful for this opportunity and I look forward to continuing this service with Mercy House and the City of Costa Mesa.”

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## **Bridge Shelter Success: Derek's Story**

Derek was homeless for three years on the streets of Costa Mesa until he recently made a choice to move into the Costa Mesa Bridge Shelter to find daily stability, including food, shower and form a plan to end his homelessness.



City outreach and Bridge Shelter staff worked together and helped Derek realize he needed to live in a place with a lower cost of living. Derek left the Bridge Shelter but continued to work with the outreach team to explore housing options.

With help, Derek made a list of people and places that he felt were good options. He began calling those places and friends to see if anyone had a room to rent that he could move into.

A secure home was found and the paperwork was completed for him to be reconnected to a friend in Wisconsin. Recently Derek called while he was on his way to his new home to say thank you for helping him realize he could not keep living check to check in California.

He is happy to be able to live in a state that he can afford, while having his daily needs met.

The city thanks Trellis for funding Derek's bus ride to his new home and also taking him to the bus depot and seeing him off with a lunch and support.

Through collaborative efforts like these, the Costa Mesa Bridge Shelter has successfully facilitated a new lease on life for several clients in a short period of time.

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## **Bridge Shelter Partner Profile: Russ Carter**

Russ Carter first began his involvement with individuals experiencing homelessness in Costa Mesa 14 years ago as part of a small group from Saddleback Church that served breakfast and provided fellowship at the Sandpiper Motel.

Carter became an advocate for one of the men he served

breakfast to. That led him to learn more about those experiencing homelessness and their issues, problems, needs and the services available to them. His role quickly evolved from serving meals to advocating for the unsheltered, both individually and as a group.

Carter and the volunteers from Saddleback Church continue to provide meals and support to those in need. However, with the opening of the Costa Mesa Bridge Shelter new rules and regulations have been implemented related to volunteers, food service and more.

Despite these new restrictions, Carter and Saddleback Church have adapted their routine and continue to serve a nutritious breakfast that Bridge Shelter clients enjoy and they hope to continue as meal partners with the shelter.

It is partnerships like these that contribute to the overall success at the Bridge Shelter and ensure the shelter successfully changes lives for the better and continues to make a positive and meaningful impact on the Costa Mesa community.

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## **Bridge Shelter Success: Marty's Story**

Marty, a senior-aged veteran, recently came to the Costa Mesa Bridge Shelter following a tumultuous break up with his girlfriend of 10 years. With nowhere else to go and no family in the area, he felt the shelter was his only option for housing.

After moving into the shelter, outreach staff helped Marty

contact his family currently residing in a different state. His family urged him to consider moving so he could be nearby and start a new life.

A lack of housing options was not the only thing negatively impacting Marty's life. He was also embroiled in a bitter struggle over possession of his personal belongings. Outreach staff helped Marty establish a court case so he can retrieve his belongings peacefully and without incident prior to moving out of state.

As an added bonus, Marty was also connected to the Veterans Administration and informed he may be eligible for rental assistance.

Once his court issues are resolved, he will be able to reunite with his family and start his new life. In the meantime, he has a comfortable and stable place to reside while he gets his affairs in order.

To learn more about the Costa Mesa Bridge Shelter and the city's efforts to assist those in need, please visit [www.costamesaca.gov/homelessness](http://www.costamesaca.gov/homelessness).